Senuri Wijenayake

PhD Candidate | Human Computer Interaction, University of Melbourne

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PROFILE

Senuri Wijenayake is a PhD student at the University of Melbourne. Her research interests include Social Computing and Human-computer Interaction. She is a responsible, straight-forward individual with a passion for research. Senuri has hands-on experience working with diverse teams and a "can-do" attitude to supplement her outstanding academic record in Computer Science. She welcomes challenges as opportunities to grow and believe in working smart to reach goals.

EDUCATION

PhD in Computer Science
Jul 2018 – Present

School of Computing and Information Systems, University of Melbourne, Australia.

Thesis: Understanding Dynamics of Online Social Conformity
Supervised By: Dr. Jorge Goncalves and Prof. Vassilis Kostakos

BSc. (Hons) Information Technology
May 2013 – Oct 2017

Faculty of Information technology, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.

Highlights:
- **Gold Medal for the Best Academic Performance** for the 2017 at the BSc. (Hons) IT Examinations.
- **Gold Medal for the Most Outstanding Graduand of the University of Moratuwa** for 2017 for outstanding academic performance, research contribution, volunteer work and extra-curricular activities.

EXPERIENCE

Academic Tutor
Jan 2019 – Present

School of Computing and Information Systems, University of Melbourne, Australia.

- Experience conducting both physical and online tutorials for graduate and undergraduate students.
- Received the **Excellence in Tutoring Award** in recognition of the excellent contribution to tutoring in School of Computing and Information Systems in 2019.
- Mentoring a post-graduate research project investigating social conformity in online group chatting environments for HCI Project (INFO90008).
- **Course Modules Tutored:**
  - Evaluating User Experience (INFO90004)
  - Fundamentals of Interaction Design (INFO10003)
- **Certifications:**
  - Melbourne Teaching Certificate for Graduate Researchers awarded by the Melbourne Centre for the Study of Higher Education, University of Melbourne.
  - Foundations of Teaching and Learning for Graduate Researchers awarded by the Melbourne Centre for the Study of Higher Education, University of Melbourne.

Full Stack Developer
Aug 2017 – Jun 2018

Tracified, 99X Technology, Sri Lanka.

- Based on the concept "Trust through Traceability", Tracified can be used by vendors of premium products (e.g., organic food, gems) to provide transparency into their product's journey from its origin to the marketplace (demo).
- **Responsibilities:**
  - Software development using TypeScript, NodeJs and AngularJs.
  - Leading a 20+ team of Developers, UX Engineers and Quality Assurance Engineers and overseeing the scrum activities as the team's Scrum Master.
  - Communicating with current and potential clients for product engineering and customisations.

Software Engineering Intern
Mar 2016 – Sep 2016

PicaSix, 99X Technology, Sri Lanka.

- Developed a web-based supply scale management system for PicaSix to combine and align process of complex supply chains between importers, suppliers, production, wholesalers and end-consumers.
- **Responsibilities:**
    - Software development using AngularJs, Javascript, HTML, CSS and Ruby on Rails.
    - Researching and deploying the server as a Docker container.

Undergraduate Developer
Aug 2014 – May 2015

E-kilder, Embla Software Innovations, Sri Lanka.

- Developed an interactive website to digitize handwritten information of Norwegian church books (available as scanned images) through crowdsourcing and use that information to enable users to discover and graphically illustrate their family trees.
- **Responsibilities:**
    - Full stack software development using HTML, CSS, JavaScript, C#, Entity Framework and SQL Server.
    - Communicating with the Product Owner and the Business Analyst for requirement gathering, customisations and walkthroughs.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Quantifying the Effect of Social Presence on Online Social Conformity
CSCW 2020

S. Wijenayake, N. van Berkel, V. Kostakos and J. Goncalves
Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction, 4 (CSCW1), 55:1 - 55:22

Bots for Research: Minimising the Experimenter Effect
CHI 2020

S. Wijenayake, N. van Berkel, J. Goncalves
In International Workshop on Detection and Design for Cognitive Biases in People and Computing Systems (CHI'20)

Impact of Contextual and Personal Determinants on Online Social Conformity
CHB 2020

S. Wijenayake, N. van Berkel, V. Kostakos, J. Goncalves
Computers in Human Behaviour

Measuring the Effects of Gender on Online Social Conformity
CSCW 2019

S. Wijenayake, N. van Berkel, V. Kostakos, J. Goncalves
Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction, 3 (CSCW), 145:1 - 145:24

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

- **Excellence in Tutoring Award** offered by the School of Computing and Information Systems, University of Melbourne in recognition for an excellent contribution to tutoring in 2019.
- **Rowden White Scholarship** awarded based on academic merit by the University of Melbourne for year 2018.
- **Melbourne Research Scholarship** offered by the University of Melbourne (2018 – present).
- **Best Paper Award** at the Big Data Analytics for Social Computing (BDASC'18) for paper titled "A Decision Tree Approach to Predicting Recidivism in Domestic Violence".
- **Gold Award** in Retails and Supply Chain Management at the **National Best Quality Software Awards** Sri Lanka (NBQSA) in 2017 for software project "Tracified".
- **Merit Award** in Culture and Tourism at the **e-Swabhimani'17**, organised by ICTA Sri Lanka for undergraduate research project "TravelSL".

VOLUNTARY WORK

Committee Member (Media & Communications)
May 2019 - Present

Sri Lankan Graduates' Society, University of Melbourne, Australia.

Motivational Speaker & Mentor
May 2015 - Present

- Conducting awareness sessions to conducting offline and online motivational sessions to high school and undergraduate students in Sri Lanka, to create awareness of the importance of higher education and opportunities available.

Editor in Chief – FIT Chronicle
Jan 2015 – Aug 2017

Faculty of Information Technology, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka